

Message Text

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67

ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03

SS-20 USIA-15 NIC-01 DRC-01 /120 W

----- 015073

R 091200Z APR 74

FM AMEMBASSY NDJAMENA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7735

INFO AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

AMEMBASSY NIAMEY

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY YAOUNDE

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, CD

SUBJECT: CHAD'S ABSENCE FROM POMPIDOU RITES

1. GOVERNMENT COMMUNIQUE HAS CONFIRMED WHAT EVERYONE HAD NOTICED--THAT NO GOC REPRESENTATIVE ATTENDED POMPIDOU RITES AT PARIS. CONCURRENT MEMORIAL MASS IN N'DJAMENA WAS DELAYED FIFTEEN MINUTES AWAITING GOC REP BUT FINALLY TOOK PLACE WITH ALL GOVERNMENT SEATS EMPTY. COMMUNIQUE NOTES THAT MESSAGES OF CONDOLENCE WERE SENT TO POHER AND MME. POMPIDOU EXPRESSING THE "STUPOR AND CONSTERNATION" OF PARTY, GOVERNMENT AND PEOPLE AT "TRAGIC DISAPPEARANCE". CLAIMS THAT PRESIDENT AND MNRCS LEADERS HELD VIGIL CEREMONY OR "WAKE" FOR POMPIDOU ON NIGHT OF APRIL 2/3 IN ACCORDANCE WITH CHADIAN TRADITION.

2. COMMUNIQUE ATTACKS THOSE WHO CRITICIZE THIS DECISION TO BE ABSENT AND THOSE WHO ALIGN THEMSELVES WITH IMPERIALISM AND STATES THAT EX-CHIEF OF STAFF GENERAL MALLOUM AND EX-HEAD OF PPT WOMEN'S BRANCH VE. KALTOUMA NGUEMBANG WILL SOON BE TRIED BEFORE MILITARY AND CIVIL COURTS RESPECTIVELY.

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3. THIS INCIDENT FOLLOWS WORD OF WARNING TO FRENCH NATIONALS

IN CHAD BY TOMBALBAYE DURING STATE-OF-NATION SPEECH APRIL 2
AT OPENING OF NATIONAL ASSEMBLY SESSION. POINTED OUT FRENCH
ARE HERE ON CHADIAN SUFFRANCE AND WILL BE WELCOME AS LONG AS
THEY REFRAIN FROM INTERFERENCE IN AND PUBLIC COMMENTS ON GOC
POLICIES. PRESIDENT ALSO STATED THAT, DESPITE GOF ASSURANCES,
RENEGADE EX-AMBASSADOR TOURA GABA WOULD NOT BE
ADMITTED TO FRANCE, "PERSISTENT RUMORS" INDICATE HE NOW
RESIDING IN PARIS.

4. COMMENT: GOC ABSENCE IS VIEWED BY FRENCH EMBASSY AND
COMMUNITY AS GRATUITIOUS SNUB AND WE SUPPOSE IT WILL BE SO
VIEWED IN PARIS AS WELL. WARNING AGAINST CRITICISM BY FRENCH
RESIDENTS IN CHAD AND REMINDER THAT MALLOUM AND NGUEMBANG
WILL BE TRIED ILLUSTRATE TWO OF PRESIDENT TOMBALBAYE'S DOMINANT
CONCERNS, THE STIFLING OF ANY CRITICISM OF THE REGIME AND THE
SEARCH FOR SOMEONE TO BLAME FOR THE COUNTRY'S PROBLEMS.
DETENTE IN FRANCO-CHADIAN RELATIONS DURING PAST FEW MONTHS
APPEARS TO HAVE ENDED DURING FIRST WEEK OF INTERREGNUM BETWEEN
TWO FRENCH AMBASSADORS.
MULCAHY

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